

May 16, 1977

LB 220

SENATOR BARNETT: Ladies and gentlemen, I wish that we would... what I have is that we...what I would like to say is that I would like to see 204 advanced basically as it is now with the funding procedure taken care of with the money in the bill with the tax already set out. The tax structure is already there. Nobody appeared in the committee except Police Chief Witt against this bill, the liquor lobby was in the room during the hearing, did not oppose, offer amendments, or anything else. I think that it is time, you have already accepted one amendment from that group. It is time to pass this bill as it is, stay with it as it is, and let it go across the board and get some services into this state. I see no reason if it is going to raise the same money, why we should change from a 14% under and a 14% more. It doesn't make any sense to me at all. If it is going to raise the same amount of money, then I see no reason why we can't keep the tax as it is and pass this bill as we now have it drafted. Remember what I told you, in Judiciary committee at the hearing of the bill, none of the lobby testified against this bill. Police Chief Witt from Fremont and only because of decriminalization and he didn't oppose that to that degree he said that he wasn't geared up to handle decriminalization at this time. That was the only reason he appeared in opposition to the bill. He wanted the bill, he wanted the alcoholic centers set up across the state. Lets leave the bill as it is and get on with the other pieces of legislation that we have. I would vigorously oppose this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President, I would like to ask for the question.

PRESIDENT: Do I see five seconds? I do. The question is shall the debate now cease. Record your vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body. I'll sum it up again what we are doing with this amendment is reducing the wine on 14% or less from 75¢ per gallon now to 55¢ per gallon. We are increasing the wine with 14% or more alcoholic content from 75 up to a \$1.10. The.....that is all that this amendment does. It does not deal with decriminalization as Senator Barnett was talking about. I took this particular amendment to Senator Merz, as you all know is the sponsor of the bill, he agreed to it. I have checked the amendment with as many different members of you as I thought were even interested in the bill to any extent. There was no opposition at all to it. I would suggest that we adopt the amendment and get on with our business.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 19 nays.

PRESIDENT: The bill shall not be returned. Do you have anything further?

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